

**Interagency Council on the Homeless  
Meeting Minutes  
November 28, 2007**

**Attendees:** Rodney Stockment, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA); Charles Coley, IHCDA; Lori Dimick, IHCDA; John Dorgan, HUD; Fred Hash, Great Lakes Capital Fund; Charles Boyle, FSSA Division of Mental Health and Addiction (FSSA-DMHA); Frank Hagaman, Partners in Housing; Jim Holdemann, Veterans Affairs (VA); Kristi Montgomery, Department of Health (ISDH); Patrick Taylor, Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues (ICHHI); Holly Hintz, ICHHI; Jim Cox, Department of Corrections (DOC); Christina Endres, Department of Education (DOE); Carol Santos, Mental Health Association of Tippecanoe County; Jennifer Flora, Mental Health Association of Tippecanoe County; Bud Myers, Indianapolis Housing Agency (IHA); Mary Etheart, Fort Wayne Continuum of Care; Lori Phillips-Steele, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH); and Sue Augustus, CSH.

**Guests:** Dr. JoAnn Miller, Purdue University; Chris O'Hara, Seeds of Hope; Honorable Judge Don Johnson, Lafayette Court; Ken Thompson, re-entry participant; Keshawn Hawkins, re-entry participant; and Wendy Pfeil, re-entry participant.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Coley called the meeting to order.

**II. Approval of September Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved as written upon the motion of Mr. Holdemann, seconded by Mr. Boyle. Motion carried.

**III. Statewide Housing and Homelessness Update**

There was no report given at this time.

**IV. HMIS Data Overview**

Mr. Taylor discussed the reporting capabilities of the HMIS system. He shared data from the 'Residence Prior to Program Entry' report. The report was distributed at the meeting. He discussed the various reports that can be generated from the system to help "tell the story" of organizations and their clients.

Mr. Taylor also announced that ICHHI received a grant from the Chase Foundation. The grant will be used to produce an annual report using HMIS data.

## **V. Lafayette Re-Entry Court**

Mr. Stockment introduced Judge Don Johnson and Dr. JoAnn Miller. They are presiding over the Lafayette Re-entry Program. This program is a partnership with Purdue University as part of a Weed & Seed project.

Dr. Miller gave a presentation on the evidence-based program that is designed for high-risk offenders who are at risk for repeat offenses. It is a four-phase program. The “step-up” process prepares participants for minimum wage employment that eventually leads to gainful employment. Once gainfully employed participants have the ability to maintain housing and support themselves and their dependents. The program has incorporated a literary component, “Changing Lives through Literature”, which encourages family literacy. Participants generally complete the four-phase program within a year.

Dr. Miller stressed that the success of the program is due to the oversight of the advisory team. The advisory team consists of approximately 15 local community based organizations, correctional agencies and educational organizations that meet every Monday to discuss participant needs and status in the program.

Judge Johnson introduced three participants of the program, Ms. Pfeil, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Hawkins. He asked each one to share their background and personal experiences in the program. Their backgrounds are representative of other participants in the program and range from alcohol and drug addictions, dealing in illegal drug activity, depression and mental illness to homelessness. Although setbacks were experienced, each participant expressed the positive impact the program has had on their lives.

Mr. Thompson’s life was transformed as he transcended from homelessness and obscurity to now working full time and becoming a productive member of society by taking the lead and mentoring others in similar situations.

Mr. Hawkins, at first resistant to the stringent guidelines, is now working toward being a responsible husband and father to not only his own children but he has guardianship of his brother’s three children as well. He has been commended for his work ethic and is working toward gainful employment. Mr. Hawkins expressed the joy he felt when walking through the door of his own home and taking the children to the library.

Ms. Pfeil, a new participant in the program, is working toward overcoming her addictions and battling depression. She stated the program has helped her in her goal to become a better mother and gainfully employed.

## **VI. TPCI Overview: Transition from Prison to Community Initiative**

Mr. Cox of the Department of Corrections gave an overview of TPCI. He stated that TPCI builds bridges. It is a collaboration between the Department of Corrections and other agencies with the goal of changing the culture of discharging people into homelessness.

## **VII. Interagency Council: 2008 Initiatives**

Mr. Stockment discussed the 2008 initiatives for the Council. One major goal will be to define committees. The focus will be on committee participation for 2008. Another goal will be to create a matrix of what each agency brings to the table such as services, funding, etc. Additionally, a focus in 2008 will be the creation of permanent supportive housing. This supports IHCD's recent partnership with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (with joint funding provided by Great Lakes Capitol Fund) as well as HUD's priority emphasis. Lori Phillips-Steele, recently hired Indiana associate director for the Corporation for Supportive Housing, will work with IHCD and CSH to identify the number of units statewide and also to draft a longitudinal analysis of housing needs.

Mr. Dorgan discussed the 2008 SuperNOFA. He stated that the application will be in an electronic format in 2008. It will be published in three parts. Award announcements for 2008 will follow the normal schedule. He also mentioned the Homelessness Resource Exchange website at [www.HUDHRE.info](http://www.HUDHRE.info) is an excellent resource.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at IHCD from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM.**